

showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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a! --In the following there will be explained the function of the device searching server 112 with reference to flow charts in Figs. 4 and 5. Fig. 4 is a flow chart showing the function of the device searching server 112. The discrimination and execution in this process are achieved, as a hardware, by a CPU 201 in the device searching server. When the device searching server 112 is activated, a step S401 opens a reception port for receiving a device searching request from a device searching client. When a search request is received from the device searching client in this operation, the operating system issues a reception event, whereby the reception of the search request is informed to the program. Then a step S402 awaits information of any event from the operating system. When any event is informed, such event is acquired and the sequence proceeds to a next step. A next step S403 discriminates whether the event acquired in the step S402 is a system shutdown event. If so, a step S408 closes the reception port and the sequence is terminated. If the step S403 identifies that the acquired event is not a shutdown event, a step S404 discriminates whether the event is an event of receiving an inquiry from the device searching client. If so, a step S405 refers to the database shown in Fig. 3 and the inquiry condition, thereby selecting an appropriate device. Then a step S406 returns the search result obtained in the step S405 to the device searching client. On the other hand, if the step S404 identifies that the event is not an inquiry reception event, a step S407 executes a process other than the shutdown event or the inquiry reception event, such as an image renewal.--

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